

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Pulmonary hypertension is a rare lung disorder
3 that historically has been chronic and incurable, with a poor
4 survival rate; and

5 WHEREAS, In the United States, it has been estimated that
6 300 new cases of pulmonary hypertension are diagnosed each
7 year; and

8 WHEREAS, The greatest number of cases are reported in
9 women between the ages of 21 and 40, although pulmonary
10 hypertension can affect men, women, and children at any age;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Pulmonary hypertension also affects people of
13 all racial and ethnic origins equally; and

14 WHEREAS, About 6 to 10 percent of pulmonary hypertension
15 cases are familial; and

16 WHEREAS, During the period January 1996 through December
17 1997, almost 6,000,000 Americans took anorexic drugs, which
18 can cause pulmonary hypertension; and

19 WHEREAS, Pulmonary hypertension remains a diagnosis of
20 exclusion and is rarely detected in routine medical
21 examinations; and

22 WHEREAS, Even in later stages, the signs of pulmonary
23 hypertension can be confused with other conditions affecting
24 the heart and lungs; and

25 WHEREAS, One form of pulmonary hypertension, known as
26 secondary pulmonary hypertension, is caused by other
27 diseases, and two common causes of secondary pulmonary
28 hypertension are emphysema and bronchitis; and

29 WHEREAS, Other causes are inflammatory or collagen

1 vascular disease such as scleroderma, CREST syndrome, or
2 systemic lupus erythematosus; and

3 WHEREAS, Early diagnosis can lead to early treatment and
4 the possibility of improved quality of life and prolonged
5 life; and

6 WHEREAS, Education can help with early diagnosis;
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
10 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the month of November is
11 hereby designated as Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Month
12 in Illinois; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That we recognize and applaud the role played
14 by health organizations and health care providers in
15 promoting awareness of the importance of early diagnosis,
16 testing, and ongoing screening for pulmonary hypertension,
17 and we encourage health organizations in this State to host
18 activities to promote pulmonary hypertension awareness; and
19 be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 delivered to the Pulmonary Hypertension Association.